

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 12, 2006**

DATE: January 12, 2006

TIME: 2:00 pm

PLACE: Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
250 William Howard Taft Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Dr. Carl Evert, General Interest Member
Bernie Fiedelley, Township Representative
Deborah Holston, Representative of Largest Municipality
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair
Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member
Glenn Welling, Public Member

DOES Staff

Jeff Aluotto, Solid Waste Program Manager
Holly Christmann, Assistant Program Manager
Ken Edgell, Environmental Administrative Coordinator
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator
Susan Schumacher, Administrative Secretary, Clerk

Others In Attendance

Mary Anne Berry, WOC
Justin Brogden, Resident
John Brueggemann, Bavarian Waste
Nee Fong Chin, Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office
Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County General Health District
Cliff Fullman, Roselawn CC
Mitch Miller, Sharonville
Bob Orr, CSI Waste
Sam Sherrill, University of Cincinnati
Nancy Sunnenberg, Resident

ABSENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County General Health District Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm and apologized for being delayed. Mr. Portune introduced Justin Brogden who was working out of his office for the month. Mr. Portune discussed Mr. Brogden's background as well as his role with the County.

II. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – November 10, 2005

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Aluotto stated that as noted prior to the meeting, there is not a quorum of members that were present at the November 10 meeting but the minutes could be reviewed but not approved.

Mr. Portune stated that the practice is that members who were not present for the meeting for the minutes that are being discussed, abstain from the vote. Mr. Portune stated that this item will be held over to the next meeting.

B. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Aluotto suggested moving the Vision Statement to an informational item due to two members being absent.

III. DISTRICT REVENUE REPORT

Mr. Aluotto stated that Attachment B showed the last revenue update for 2005 and typically the December amount will arrive within the next month. Comparing 11 months of data, revenues are very comparable to 2004 and will come in at \$2.7 to \$2.8 million. The committee discussed trends/revenue that occurred in 2004 and 2005.

Mr. Aluotto stated he would have a complete revenue analysis for the next meeting.

IV. PRESENTATION – Nancy Sunnenberg & Sam Sherrill – Urban Wood Waste Management

Mr. Portune introduced and welcomed Ms. Sunnenberg. Ms. Sunnenberg stated that she had asked Mr. Portune if she could speak to the Policy Committee about a proposal that she offered Mr. Sherrill several years ago pertaining to a waste reduction program in 2003. In 2004, the proposal was submitted for the Reduction Assistance Grant but was not funded by the District. The proposal was not submitted to the District in 2005.

Ms. Sunnenberg stated that the proposal dealt with forming a partnership with Roselawn Community Council, the City of Cincinnati Urban Forestry Division, Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, and they were trying to attract the Hamilton County Park District into a collaborative effort to look at wood waste recovery. Ms. Sunnenberg discussed the current practices of the City.

Ms. Sunnenberg stated that some time ago, the Policy Committee funded a small grant for Urban Forestry that they utilized to hire a sawyer to take some of the logs and prepare them into lumber and was done successfully but it is time to step this up into an institutionalized practice so that not only the City of Cincinnati product is used, but “best practice” would be able to be used in this field regionally.

Ms. Sunnenberg stated that the reason she came before the Policy Committee was to ask if the Committee had an interest in developing this idea in the near future, endorse it, and provide funding for it. Ms. Sunnenberg stated that she thought the project was a good idea and would like to see it executed.

Mr. Sherrill introduced himself and stated that he was familiar with what Ms. Sunnenberg spoke of because, best estimate, over 4 billion board feet of potential lumber ends up in a landfill, or is used for mulch or firewood. If this were turned into lumber and priced out at 50 cents/board foot, it would be worth about \$2 billion.

Mr. Sherrill spoke of a book he wrote titled “Harvesting Urban Timber – A Complete Guide.” The book describes different methods of how to reclaim the trees before they end up at the landfill. Mr. Sherrill discussed how he and Ms. Sunnenberg reclaimed about 1,000 board feet of oak a few years ago and also discussed how this was incorporated into the Planning College at UC. Mr. Sherrill discussed the project that the students worked on.

Mr. Sherrill stated that he supported this idea and discussed how it could benefit the City and Hamilton County.

A brief question and answer session ensued.

Mr. Portune requested that Staff follow up directly with Ms. Sunnenberg and Mr. Sherrill to bring forward the framework of a proposal for the Policy Committee to consider. Mr. Portune stated there is a variety of opportunities regarding this issue that are very consistent with the mission of the District and very beneficial to local government from a revenue standpoint.

Mr. Aluotto reminded the Policy Committee that the District funded a similar program a few years ago and that the District does offer the Reduction Assistance Grant program. Mr. Aluotto asked the Committee if they would like to see something prior to the next round of grant applications, which are due in mid summer. Mr. Portune stated that this project would be more than a reduction assistance type of program and discussed the positives this type of program could have.

III. POLICY ITEMS

A. Policy Committee Member Reappointments

Mr. Aluotto stated that of the seven member Policy Committee, there are three members that have terms; the public member, the general interest member and the representative of waste generators. Historically, the District has sought applications to fill those positions after the completion of a second two year term. Dr. Evert and Mr. DiPuccio are approaching the end of their second, two-year terms. As opposed to seeking nominations or applications to fill the positions, District staff is recommending that both members be re-appointed to their respective positions on the Committee in light of the fact that the District will be ratifying the Solid Waste Management Plan in 2006. This would allow both members to complete the planning process that began in 2004 and would avoid the significant task of bringing a new member up to speed on the process. Mr. Welling stated that in addition, the Committee is embarking on a first time strategic plan process in which both members have been involved.

Mr. Aluotto stated that there were three options that the Policy Committee could consider. 1) Reappoint the two members for an additional two-year term 2) Reappoint the two members for an additional two-year term with the understanding that both members would voluntarily resign their positions following the formal approval of the District's Plan or 3) Allow the terms to expire and appoint new members.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to reappoint both members for an additional two year term. Ms. Holston moved; Mr. Welling seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

B. Re-Design of Computer Collection Program

Mr. Aluotto stated that at a previous meeting, a discussion took place regarding the re-design of future computer collection programs and staff was instructed to provide more detailed recommendations. After discussing regulations and conducting research, below are those recommendations:

1. During 2006, the District will continue the computer collection program as normal – allowing any customer to bring equipment at a week-long event.
2. Also during 2006, the District will begin notifying the public that, in 2007, the program will shift to focus on residential generators. The purpose behind this change is:
 - a. There are no regulations guiding the management of e-waste for residential generators. As such, it is currently legal for residents to dispose of e-waste in landfills. The same does not apply for the commercial sector. Thus, the scope of the program would parallel the strategy for hazardous waste where the District focuses its efforts and dollars on the residential sector.
 - b. Due to the nature of District events, there are several services which the District cannot offer which should be of significant importance to commercial enterprises (asset inventory tracking, etc.).
 - c. Limiting participation to residential generators will allow the District to consider an expansion of the program to improve the convenience to customers – again, similar to the strategy employed for HHW.

3. During 2007, the District will advertise and implement a program focused on residential generators. The District will also seek to expand the number of drop-off locations in order to improve the convenience to residential generators.

Mr. Aluotto stated that the Policy Committee had been provided a document that does not outline a specific program but is a policy recommendation for altering the policy for computer events for 2007. Mr. Aluotto briefly discussed the four priorities which are: 1) Expanding free and convenient collection opportunities to Hamilton County residents; 2) Assisting charitable organizations with the mission of accepting donations of computer equipment in order to refurbish it and provide to needy populations; 3) Providing assistance to communities, schools, churches and other non-profit organizations; 4) Providing assistance to private sector entities.

After discussion, Mr. Portune entertained a motion to adopt the recommended priorities for the revised e-waste collection program. Dr. Evert moved; Mr. Fiedeldey seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

IV. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Solid Waste Plan Ratification

Mr. Aluotto stated that as outlined in the Manager's Memo, bullet point #2 states that the District use the March 9 Policy Committee Meeting as the formal public hearing to begin the ratification process. Mr. Aluotto stated that staff is recommending using the next meeting as the public hearing for the Plan Update. The Policy Committee concurred with Mr. Aluotto's recommendation.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the siting strategy.

B. Republic/CSI-Waste Management

Mr. Aluotto stated that Republic/CSI recently purchased the assets of Waste Management of Cincinnati. The transfer station at ELDA as well as all of Waste Management's local assets in Hamilton County are now the property of Republic/CSI. Mr. Aluotto stated that Republic/CSI currently operates a transfer station here and the waste is being transported to Epperson Landfill in Kentucky. The District will be monitoring this and a meeting has been set up with Greg Beamer, CSI Transcyclery, to discuss the impact of this on the District.

V. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items at this time.

VI. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no Policy Committee comments at this time.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

VIII. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

Regular Policy Committee Meeting - Thursday, March 9, 2006 at the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219 at 2:00 pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 3:29 pm.